

The Southern Counties

Owens Purchase

Complete and pictorial was the report on the towns of Owens Valley made by the Water and Power Board last fortnight at Los Angeles. For Los Angeles County contemplated buying the towns of Bishop, Big Pine, Independence, Laws and Lone Pine.

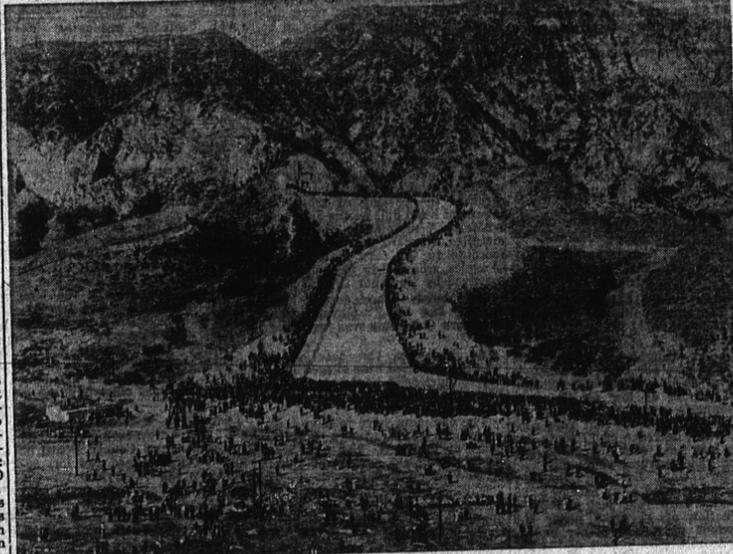
Later, the experts determined on the valuation of the valley towns. After much investigation a price for the land and buildings was fixed. The price was \$4,600,000. Further negotiations followed. Townspeople expressed disappointment, chagrin at the price offered by the board of water and power. The board of water and power adopted a resolution authorizing its agents to increase the appraisals of land only by certain percentages. This would increase the total appraisal \$1,040,000, making a total price of \$5,640,000 for the towns.

Only Lone Pine was reported to have been satisfied with the first purchase price. The four other Valley towns were not satisfied. To these four towns the board resolution offered the following percentage increases in the prices: Bishop, Big Pine and Laws, 100 per cent; Independence, 50 per cent. Independence was given less increase than the others as it was felt it had not suffered as much as the other three. The figure fixed in the original survey was nearly a satisfactory one to Independence.

The resolutions for the percentage increases were introduced by newly appointed Commissioner Harlan G. Palmer, who adopted unanimously. They expressed desire to establish sound values for Owens Valley property, expressed the hope for co-operation of the people of Owens Valley with Los Angeles in the event of any purchase. The resolutions stated that the welfare of the Valley would be furthered as a residential, business center; parks would be established.

Most exhaustive was the survey which furnished a basis for the figures of purchase; most enterprising was it, too. Thirty-one pieces of property were examined, appraised, involving 847 separate ownerships. Separate structures appraised and photographed. 2356 in number. The report covered twenty-eight volumes of 5600 pages. Cost for the appraisal, \$25,000.

Not included in the survey were public, fraternal and public utility properties. What is to be placed upon the business, stores if it is bought is a problem still unsettled.



LOS ANGELES' AQUEDUCT AT SAN FERNANDO

On a Sunday, in 1913, life-giving water gushed forth.

For years has there been friction between Owens Valley residents and the City of Los Angeles over water rights. Nasty incidents in the past have marred relationships between the two. But despite the controversy, a spirit of friendliness exists for Los Angeles among Owens Valley people, thinks Mayor John C. Porter.

Said Porter last fortnight: "The people of the Valley are beginning to realize that Los Angeles is not trying to take all and give nothing." The mayor had just returned from a conference with property owners in Big Pine, Independence, Bishop and Lone Pine regarding purchase of land in the Valley towns.

But still there is a disagreement between property owners and city officials as to how much Owens Valley should pay for its water.

To lately appointed Water and Power Board Commissioner Harlan G. Palmer goes the task of settling amicably the question of water rates in the Valley. Thus far, Valley people have been high in praise of Palmer's fairness and ability; he had been up in the Valley on a visit. They said: "Los Angeles has a man whom we can confer with and get a square deal."

desired the restoration of the historic building. Also did he make known that a San Diego newspaper had contributed \$1000 to the restoration fund.

From the Sisters of Nazareth's headquarters in Europe came back a reply. With it was a draft for \$25,000.

Now in the restoration fund is a total of \$36,000 which includes several pledges that will be paid immediately. The Sisters of Nazareth have assured Mayor Porter that if a necessary additional \$15,000 is raised through the efforts of the Ad Club, they will maintain the mission when it is rebuilt.

where merit was appreciated. Senator Pedrotti thought the plan was a move in the right direction.

Buzzard Blaze

At the Hobson ranch, in Aliso Canyon, near Santa Barbara, last week was a miniature catastrophe. A wayward buzzard of the most ponderous size collided with a high tension wire stretched across the canyon. The wire was broken; instant electrocution was the fate of the buzzard.

Into the dry grass of the earth beneath fell the severed ends of the wire. Sparks were produced and kindled in the grass and the brush; soon grass and brush were aflame. Before Ventura fire warden, Walter Clayberg could eradicate the blaze, upwards of one hundred acres of brush land had been burned.

Threatening a pipe line of the Standard Oil Company and the Eagle ranch last week, was a brush fire of unknown origin sweeping through the vicinity of Atascadero in San Luis Obispo County. On the fire line were more than 350 men, called to check its course in an effort to protect valuable ranch and oil properties.

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Reason: The proposed Colorado River aqueduct is nearing actual realization. Southern California will be benefited should its construction be guaranteed. Co-operation from the counties of the South is needed. San Bernardino County wishes to co-operate.

Advantageously situated with respect to railroads are the prospective sites. With regards to geographic adaptability the proposed locations are unique.

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Last week from the petroleum corporations to the officials of taxmen, beachers went statements blaming submarine seepage rather than tankers for the heavy tar driftage along the ocean front.

Said one statement: "Oil springs beneath the surface of the ocean, which formerly may have been water springs, made to discharge oil by oil wells drilled through water horizons, now are the source of much of the beach pollution."

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Unified Ports

Indications were, last week, that the proponents of the municipally owned harbors, Los Angeles (at San Pedro) and Long Beach, would forego their natural antipathies and join in the development of a unified port. Component parts of a single tidal basin, the harbors are already joined by nature. Commercially, too, are the two shipping havens united. Growing rapidly, an interdependence of the two ports is becoming increasingly evident.

In Los Angeles, last week, was a definite move toward the municipal unification of the neighboring harbors. Governmental and port officials of both cities convened at the California Club. Present were Mayor Porter and Harbor Commissioner, Walter Alton; Commissioner McCook of the Long Beach port body; Presidents Crandall and Stevens of the Los Angeles and Long Beach Chambers of Commerce; and representatives from both cities. Jointly, Crandall and Stevens had called the meeting.

To the attention of all in attendance was pointed out the fact that in individual operation the two harbors had had over one billion dollars' business during the last fiscal year. With their unification an increase of a billion dollars over last year's total would be inevitable, it was argued. The two billion dollar volume was but a mark at which to shoot. A short time would bring staggering results.

Recalled was the fact that Los Angeles and Long Beach occupy a single extensive tidal basin. Dredging and the building of a breakwater would convert into one harbor two ports in the world.

Deared Los Angeles' Crandall: "There has been all the marked advantages of constructing a harbor rather than the need of subordinating harbor facilities to irremovable natural obstructions or other adverse natural conditions."

Manager Charles H. Matson of the Department of Foreign Commerce of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce reported, logically, that the interchange of goods between the two ends of the harbor indicated that on an economic basis the situation would eventually force the unified port control and development. Opined he: "Commerce knows no municipal boundaries. . . danger lies in cut-throat competition between the two ports. . . unification means the increased ability to carry through improvements essential to the mutual good of the sister ports."

Keenly interested in the proceedings were Mayors Porter and Hongkong. That the matter might receive immediate action, the two executives were urged to appoint a joint committee to take up the proposals officially; to determine if some plan might be agreed upon, and presented at the session of the Rivers and Harbors Board, at Washington, on November 16.

From the Los Angeles and Long Beach chambers of commerce came offers of co-operation; their committees would aid in finding a solution of the problem which would benefit and satisfy both cities. Goodwill was evidenced throughout the entire meeting.

Increased by approximately \$40,000 over the total of July, 1928, were Los Angeles Harbor revenues last month. Reports from the office of General Manager Edwards re-

Mission Reclaimed

Old and decrepit has San Diego Mission become of late. Loath to San Diegoans to see it crumble in ruins. Last week the San Diego Advertising Club took the matter in hand, voted among themselves to sponsor a campaign for the restoration of the historic mission.

Twenty-four hours later, Advertiser Mayorhofer called to the mother house of the Sisters of Nazareth, in Europe. He told of the mission's sad state, how the Sisters of Nazareth at San Diego

Griffen, pitcher
Hopkins, first base
Donal, second base
Lenard, shortstop
Mack, third base
Singer, left field
Edwards, center field
Cogans, right field.

Spiral X-rays and other large exposures can now be made, according to Miss Esther Maxwell, superintendent of the hospital, and the new equipment provides the Torrance hospital with one of the best X-ray equipments in this part of the county. The new transformer and control cost \$2100, all of which was donated by Mrs. Torrance.

to the residents of Torrance. Why not let's get down to business and get the FACTS. Have the City Engineer estimate the cost of a new system. Get a competent water authority to ascertain if there is sufficient water sources available, and then tell the property owners how much it would cost them in taxes to own their own system and how much they would save in water rates if they did install a municipally owned water system. If it's profitable for Hawthorne, it certainly should be profitable for Torrance.

Robinson, pitcher
Thompson, second base
Price, center field
Sleppy, left field
Burmaster, catcher
Phillips, right field
Dutlity, Anderson, Butcher.

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Ernard Opp, president of the Wilmington chamber of commerce, and members of the Figueroa Improvement association are active in support of property owners opposing the proposed change in route which would affect the southerly extension of Figueroa from 190th street to Wilmington and San Pedro road.

Original Plans

In the original plans the extension of this street was scheduled to run south on Hoover in a direct line across Ocean and connect directly with Machado street, a plan which it is thought met with general approval of property owners. The original route, because of its directness and connection with a street already improved, suggests itself as desirable for the extension, according to those familiar with the conditions.

The proposed change in the Figueroa extension plans, which has been brought to the attention of the directors of the San Pedro chamber of commerce, diverges at a point 700 feet beyond Ocean and cutting off a corner of five acres, connects with Frigate street, thus establishing two decided angles and leaving useless 700 feet on Hoover street. A petition signed by 90 per cent of the property owners affected by the proposed change protests against the routing.

A letter explaining in detail reasons for the proposed change has been promised David M. Carroll, manager of the Figueroa Improvement association by George W. Jones, county road commissioner.

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